

Great Lakes

Ohio cadets experience thrill of powerless flight

OHIO – Cadets from Firelands Composite Squadron recently enjoyed a first-hand encounter with nonpowered flight, courtesy of an instructor pilot in a Civil Air Patrol glider. The cadets not only took to the air, they also served as wing runners, helping move the glider into place on the runway for towing aloft by a powered plane, then running alongside the glider to make sure its wings were level as it approached takeoff. They learned that a glider, once released, can soar on thermals created by the heating of the earth's surface, often remaining in the air for hours.

"It was kind of scary taking off," Cadet Airman Basic Joseph Kreglow commented after his first glider flight. "But it was nice and smooth after we released. Overall, it was great! I can hardly wait to do it again!"

Added Cadet Staff Sgt. Francisco Martinez: "It is an experience that cannot be explained in words. You have to try it yourself." >> Capt. Lori Douglas

Maj. Milton Moos of the Columbus Senior Squadron guides Cadet Staff Sgt. James Kreglow in steadying the wing as the glider gains speed for takeoff.



Photo by Capt. Lori Douglas, Ohio Wing

Middle East

Squadrons combine ground training with exposure to public safety operations

MARYLAND — Members of the Howard and Fort McHenry composite squadrons spent a full weekend recently combining ground training with a look at public safety operations. After starting with instruction on how to pick a camp site location and set up camp, the CAP members divided into five- to seven-member "hasty search" teams. Then came a trip to the new Howard County Public Safety Training Center, where Police Aviation Unit officers briefed them on the capabilities of the unit's helicopter and on landing-site preparation and landing procedures. The CAP participants also heard a presentation by the Howard County Police K-9 Unit, which demonstrated the dogs' capabilities and told them how to work with police canine units during searches and how to set up search perimeters. The week concluded with a tour of the county's mobile incident command post.



Cadet Airman Joni Taylor, foreground, learns how to use a compass with help from Maj. Terri Taylor, right, while 2nd Lt. Jason Kerpelman observes.

The search teams then returned to the Base Camp to pick up gear before departing for Howard County's Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, where they practiced the use of rope "Swiss seats," compasses, maps, hasty searches and how to respond when people are injured or missing. By the time they returned to Base Camp, darkness had fallen, so each team received hands-on training in using a third-generation thermal imaging camera to detect missing people. That night, in appropriately frigid surroundings, the teams learned about winter operations and how to avoid hypothermia while camping at freezing temperatures. >> 2nd Lt. Walter Murphy

Photo by 2nd Lt. Walter Murphy, Maryland Wing